

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /085 W

-----070130Z 086996 /13

R 061703Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8942

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY BANJUL BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY BISSAU BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 2398

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SG, XA

SUBJ: PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH: "SENEGAL
WILL RESIST ANY ATTACK"

REF: DAKAR 2191

1. SUMMARY: IN INDEPENDENCE DAY ADDRESS, SENEGALESE
PRESIDENT SENGHOR, SPEAKING OF "THE WARS WHICH HAVE BROKEN
OUT AROUND US," BLUNTLY WARNED OF STRONG RESISTANCE SENEGAL
WOULD MOUNT, "IF ONE DAY WE WERE TO BE ATTACKED, AS IT WERE,
WITH THE SUPPORT OF NON-AFRICAN TROOPS." HE ALSO CAUTIONED
STUDENTS THAT, UNLIKE SALARIED WORKERS, THEY HAVE NO
RECOGNIZED RIGHT TO STRIKE. POINTING OUT THAT 30 PERCENT OF
NATIONAL BUDGET GOES TO MATTERS CONCERNING YOUTH, HE IMPLIED
THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO TOLERATE REASONABLE,
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NON-VIOLENT EXPRESSION OF STUDENT GRIEVANCES, BUT YOUTH
MUST NOT EXPECT STATE SCHOLARSHIPS TO FINANCE THEIR
ADMISSION INTO "BURGEOISIE." SENGHOR SHARPLY WARNED THE
"ILLEGAL" OPPOSITION AGAINST "ATTEMPTING TO DEMORALIZE THE
ARMED FORCES," AND "TRYING TO MAKE (YOUGH) BELIEVE THAT YOUR
GOVERNMENT IS NOT DOING ENOUGH FOR YOU." HE NOTED SEVERELY
THAT THESE "ATTEMPTS" FALL WITHIN JURISDICTION OF STATE

SECURITY COURT. END SUMMARY.

2. AS HE HAD EARLIER INDICATED TO AMBASSADOR (REFTEL), PRESIDENT SENGHOR MADE NATIONAL SECURITY ONE OF MAJOR POINTS IN HIS TELEVISED INDEPENDENCE DAY ADDRESS TO NATION. HE REFERRED TO "TENSIONS AND WARS...ON OUR NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN BORDERS," GOING ON TO PRAISE NATION'S ARMED FORCES AS "A MODEL IN AFRICA." REFERRING TO GUINEA, WITHOUT NAMING IT, HE NOTED THAT, "WITH ONE EXCEPTION, WE HAVE REALISTIC AND FRATERNAL RELATIONS OF COOPERATION WITH ALL OUR NEIGHBORS."

3. HOWEVER, IN WHAT MANY OBSERVERS TOOK AS AN INDIRECT ALLUSION TO ZAIRE AND THE INVASION OF SHABA, HE WARNED, "I WANT THIS TO BE CLEAR TO EVERYONE. IF ONE DAY WE WERE TO BE ATTACKED, AS IT WERE, WITH THE SUPPORT OF NON-AFRICAN TROOPS, OUR ARMY WOULD MOUNT A DETERMINED RESISTANCE, AND, IF NECESSARY, TAKE THE OFFENSIVE." HE SAID ALL NATION'S PEOPLE WOULD BE BEHIND ARMY WITH EXCEPTION OF "A FEW TRAITORS." SENGHOR NOTED THAT ARMY'S CIVIL ENGINEERING CAPABILITY WOULD SOON BE "RENEWED AND STRENGTHENED," WITHOUT DIRECTLY MENTIONING U.S. ASSISTANCE.

4. SPEAKING TO SENEGAL'S YOUTH, AND PARTICULARLY TO NATION'S STUDENTS, SOME OF WHOM HAVE RECENTLY BEEN ON STRIKE BECAUSE THEY ARE UNHAPPY WITH REQUIRED GOVERNMENT SERVICE AFTER GRADUATION FOR THOSE ON STATE SCHOLARSHIP (DAKAR 1915), SENGHOR POINTED OUT THAT ROUGHLY 50 PERCENT OF STUDENTS AT UNIVERSITY AND IN HIGHER EDUCATION ARE GOVERNMENT-FINANCED. IF SENEGAL IS EVER TO BE ABLE TO AFRICANIZE COMPLETELY ITS
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GOVERNMENT SERVICES, IT MUST BE ABLE TO REPLACE FOREIGN TECHNICIANS WITH ITS OWN NATIONALS, HE SAID. THE STATE CANNOT AFFORD TO PAY FOR EDUCATION OF "PETITS BOURGEOIS" WHO ONLY SEEK TO EARN MONEY IN PRIVATE SECTOR.

5. NONETHELESS, ALTHOUGH STUDENTS HAVE NO RECOGNIZED RIGHT TO STRIKE, HE SAID, GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO CONSIDER STUDENTS' COMPLAINTS IF THEY ARE MADE POLITELY, AND ARE NOT ACCOMPANIED BY VIOLENCE.

6. IN SURPRISINGLY SHARP WARNING TO "ILLEGAL" OPOSITION -- WHICH CLEARLY INDICATED HE WAS NOT SPEAKING OF LEGAL PARTI DEMOCRATIQUE DU SENEGAL (PDS) OR PARTI AFRICAINE DE L'INDEPENDENCE (PAI) -- SENGHOR SAID HE WAS AWARE THAT ILLEGAL OPPOSITION WAS "ATTEMPTING TO DEMORALIZE THE ARMED FORCES. I HEREBY ISSUE A SOLEMN WARNING, WHICH WILL NOT BE REPEATED. THESE ATTEMPTS FALL WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE STATE SECURITY COURT." HE ALSO WARNED OF ATTEMPTS BY THE "ILLEGAL" OPPOSITON TO CONVINCE YOUTH THAT THEY

WERE BEING NEGLECTED BY GOVERNMENT.

7. COMMENT I: SENGHOR'S SPEECH WAS TAPED AND RE-BROADCAST IN DAKAR ON EVER OF INDEPENDENCE DAY, WHILE MAJOR NATIONAL FESTIVITIES WERE HELD IN DIOURBEL, REGIONAL CAPITAL SOME 146 KILOMETERS INTO INTERIOR (IN CONFORMANCE WITH ESTABLISHED PATTERN OF ROTATION OF NATIONAL DAY OBSERVANCE BETWEEN DAKAR AND INLAND CITIES IN ALTERNATE YEARS). PRESIDENT APPEARED IN GOOD FORM, GESTURING ANIMATEDLY IN CONTRAST TO HIS OFTEN-PROFESSORIAL DELIVERY. PARADE IN DIOURBEL SPOT-LIGHTED SENEGAL'S MODEST MILITARY FORCES AND MARCHING UNITS FROM EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. PRESENT IN SENEGAL FOR "PRIVATE VISIT" COINCIDING WITH NATIONAL DAY WAS CAMEROON PRESIDENT AHIDJO.

8. COMMENT II: WARNINGS TO ILLEGAL OPPOSITON AND REFERENCE TO "TRAITORS" CAME AS SURPRISE EVEN TO SENIOR OFFICERS IN CONFIDENTIAL

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MILITARY AND SECURITY SERVICES. IT IS NOT YET ENTIRELY CLEAR WHO SENGHOR HAD IN MIND, THOUGH "ILLEGAL OPPOSITION" LABEL MOST EATLY FITS CHEIKH ANTA DIOP'S UNRECOGNIZED RASSEMBLEMENT NATIONAL DEMOCRATIQUE (RND) WHICH, AS REPORTED EARLIER, HAS BEEN ENGAGING IN STRIDENT CRITICISM OF OFFICIAL POLICIES OF ALL KINDS THROUGH TRACTS AND MONTHLY PERIODICAL (DAKAR A-18), DESPITE GOVERNMENT'S REFUSAL TO RECOGNIZE GROUP AS LEGITIMATE PARTY. SENGHOR'S WARNINGS MAY PRESAGE EFFORT TO REIN IN DIOP'S UNAUTHORIZED AND HARD-HITTING POLITICKING. AGGREY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
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Review Media Identifier:
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2885599
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH: \"SENEGAL WILL RESIST ANY ATTACK\"
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PDEV, SG, XA, (SENGHOR, LEOPOLD SEDAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4a2754a9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009